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condition regarding the leaving of stumps on the ground as required by rule 7 (*a*) of the rules framed under the Act cannot also be complied with by the permit-holders for the obvious reason that in order to make the lands suitable for cultivation, the stumps also will have to be removed. In order to overcome these difficulties, I have proposed an amendment to section 7 (1) of the Act and insertion of a note to rule 7 (*a*) of the rules framed under the Act.

(iv) *Seizure of properties.*—There is no provision either in the Act or in the rules framed thereunder to seize the properties involved in cases under the Act. Although there is provision to prosecute the offenders, imposition of even heavy fines may not have the desired effect for the obvious reason that the enormous profits they make easily outweigh the fines imposed. I had reported that properties may be got seized by the Police, wherever necessary, under section 550, Criminal Procedure Code, pending inclusion of the essential provisions of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act in the Madras Forest Act, 1882, by an amending Bill which is under the consideration of the Government. However, I feel that there should be provision in the Act to seize the properties involved in the cases and the courts should be empowered to confiscate them. Such a provision will surely discourage people from carrying out unauthorized felling to a much greater extent than at present and will help in the efficient enforcement of the Act.

(v) *A uniform system of Timber Transit Rules*, extended to the entire district with 'tanahs' at important points is urgently necessary for the effective enforcement of the Act since it is at present very difficult to check the movement of illicitly felled timber.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 314 asked by Sri M. Narayana Kurup at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 5th January 1954, page 114 supra.]

Extent of damage caused by the floods in July 1953 in the Malabar district and the relief measures undertaken by the Government.

(*a*) Extent of damage—

(i)	**Total number of huts collapsed .. ..**	**880**
(ii)	**Total number of huts which were damaged.**	**1,280**
(iii)	**Acreage under standing crops affected by the floods.**	**2,458·65 acres.**
(iv)	**Estimated loss of paddy .. .. ..**	**Paddy, first crop, about 596 tons.**

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(v) *Particulars of cattle lost.*—One elephant and about 250 heads of cattle were reported to have died in the floods.

(*b*) I. *Loss of life.*—There were three deaths—one was in Ponnani taluk as a result of a small fishing boat capsizing, the other was a child in Wynad taluk who appears to have been drowned in the water that had collected around her house and the third was in Naripatta amsam in Kurumbranad taluk where a woman was drowned in " Vanimal " river when the boat in which she was crossing the river capsized.

II. The following measures were taken for the relief and rehabilitation of persons affected by the floods :—

(i) *Reconstruction of houses damaged or destroyed.*—A sum of Rs. 34,568 was disbursed for this purpose from the State Funds. The scale of relief was Rs. 30 for a Harijan and Rs. 20 for a non-Harijan family for the reconstruction of houses and half the above amounts for effecting repairs to damaged houses.

(ii) *Agricultural loans.*—An allotment of Rs. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of each of the District Agricultural Officers of North and South Malabar exclusively for the grant of loans to agriculturists in the flood-affected areas for the purchase of seed and manure. The entire amount had been utilized for this purpose. In addition to the above, Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have also been instructed to grant loans liberally under the usual Taccavi rules for reclamation of silted agricultural lands.

(iii) *Prime Minister's donation.*—A sum of Rs. 10,000 was sent by the Prime Minister of India as donation from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for flood relief purposes in Malabar. The entire amount was utilized for the supply of cloth to indigent flood-affected persons, reclamation of lands silted up, to supplement the grant given from State Funds for reconstruction of houses and for subsidising the sale of insecticides in the pest-affected areas of Chirakkal taluk.

(iv) *Medical relief.*—The allotment of 115,000 lb. of milk powder, 100,000 multivitamin and 100,000 sulphaguanidine tablets received are being distributed in various villages of the district, preference being given to the flood-affected areas. Besides this, a mobile medical unit consisting of an Assistant Surgeon, a compounder and a nursing orderly is touring the flood-affected areas in North Malabar to render medical relief to persons in the interior who are unable to obtain it from the nearest hospital or dispensary.